

The Golden Treasury:
OR, THE
Compleat Minor.
BEING
Royal Institutions, or Proposals
FOR
ARTICLES
To Establish and Confirm
Laws, Liberties & Customs
OF
Silver & Gold Mines,

TO ALL
The KING's Subjects, in such Parts of
AFRICA and *AMERICA*, which are Now (or
Shall be Annexed to, and Dependant on the
CROWN of *England*.

With Rules, Laws and Methods of Mi-
ning, and Getting of Precious Stones; The Work-
ing and Making of Salt-Peter; And also, The
Digging and Getting of Lead, Tin, Copper, and
Quick-Silver-Oars, in Any or Either of those
Countries, Whereby Navigation, and Trade,
with the Subjects Interest and Riches, together
with the CROWN's Revenues, would be
greatly Encreased in a little Time.

*Most Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the King's
most Excellent Majesty, & this Present Parliament.*

LONDON, Printed for the Author, and
sold by *J. Marshal* at the Bible in *Grace-
church-street*, 1699.

DOMINA PROSPERITATIS

E X I S T E

1800

TO THE
KING's
MOST
Excellent Majesty;

Together, with the Present
PARLIAMENT
Assembled this Thirteenth Day
of February, 1699.

Great Cæsar, and Senators,
In all Humility, most Humbly I inform You

*T*here is nothing more
Certain and True,
Than that there are ma-

The PREFACE.

ay extraordinary Rich
Veyns, Mines, and Mi-
neral Countries, in
some Parts of America,
which are now Annexed
to, and Dependant on the
CROWN of England;
(the Experience and Truth
of which, nothing but want
of Skill in Mineral Af-
fairs, and Incredulity,
can or will deny); which
Veyns and Mines, if
they was Sought for, and
Set

The PREFACE.

Set to Work, by any that
understands them, would
undoubtedly, in a little
Time, prove as Rich as
any the Spaniards have
in Peru, or on the North
Side of the Æquinox,
in New-Spain ; and, in
a few Years, would pro-
duce and raise great
Quantities of Silver,
Gold, Copper, and o-
ther Valuable Things, to
the great Content and Sa-

The PREFACE.

tisfaction of the English;
provided there was any
Regular LAWS, RULES,
and METHODS Settled,
for Working, and Carry-
ing on the said Mines;
by which LAWS, the En-
terprisers, or Under-
takers thereof, might
Enjoy and Secure their
Rights, Interests, and
Properties therein, to
Them, their Heirs, and
Assigns, after they have
been

The P R E F A C E.

been at the Cost and Charges of Finding and Discovering the said Mines. But, as the Royalties thereof stand, at present, (in their respective and separate Grants from the CROWN) to a few PROPRIETORS, who formerly bath not, at present doth not, nor hereafter, in all Probability, will not use any effectual Ways and Means to Work and Discover

The PREFACE.

cover the same; whereby
this excellent Undertak-
ing hath hitherto been
Neglected and Slighted,
and is yet rendred Impra-
cticable to all English-
Men; and so will remain
to Posterity; by which,
many Rich Veyns and
Mines have been, are, &
will be of no Benefit; but
continue Void, and utterly
Lost, unless some further
Care be taken, than yet
hath

The P R E F A C E.

bath been, for Settling and Methodizing the same : The evil Circumstances of which, hath been, is, and will be, if not remedied, an unvaluable Loss to the English Nation, in Neglecting to give all due Encouragement to improve this Honourable Enter-
prise; which would greatly encrease the Revenues of the CROWN, and advance the English Nation's Inter-
est,

The PREFACE.

terest, to an unspeakable Degree, in a little Time. Therefore, that the King's most excellent Majesty, in his Princely Wisdom; together with this Present Parliament, would be Graciously Pleased to take it into Consideration, and amend this Mischief, by making the following ARTICLES, (or some such other, as the Government shall approve off)

The PREFACE.

off) for Standing LAWS,
and CUSTOMS, to be Ob-
served and Practised by
all the KING's Subjects
in America; whereby the
Enterprize would become
National to the English
Posterity, and every Free-
Born Subject have Liberty
to Seek, Find, and Enjoy
the Fruit of his Labours;
Paying to the CROWN,
the Duties and Reser-
vations here-after men-
tioned,

The PREFACE.

*tioned, Is the sole Desire,
and earnest Request of,*

Your most Humble,

Most Dutiful, and most
Obedient Petitioner,

Thom. Houghton.

Royal

ROYAL Institutions.

Article I.

THAT it is the Right and Pre-rogative of the CROWN, to Elect and Choose an Officer, and Officers, for B the

2 Royal Institutions.

the Management of
the Royal Treasures,
when and where Oc-
cation doth or shall re-
quire, to take the Care
and Charge of the
K I N G's Part, in all
Royal Mines; and also,
in all Mines of *Base*
Metal, where the Roy-
alties yet remain an-
nexed to the Crown;
Which Officer, and
Officers, shall be Sworn
to

to do Right and Justice, as much as in Him or Them lieth, (according to the best of his or their Skill and Knowledge) between his Soveraign Majesty the KING, and the *Miner*, *Maintainer*, or *Venturer*; and also, between *Miner* and *Miner*, and *Miner* and *Maintainer* of such Mines; and shall ei-

4 Royal Institutions.

ther Himself, or by his or their Lawful Deputy or Deputies, duly Execute, and faithfully put in Practice, amongst the *Miners* and *Adventurers*, and all other of the K I N G's Subjects, these ARTICLES, as Rules, Laws, and Customs, fit to be kept and observed, in all Parts of *Africa*, *America*,

merica, or the West-India Islands, where any Silver or Gold Mines, or any other Mines of Tin, Lead, Copper, Quick-Silver, Precious Stones, and Salt-Petre, shall be Found, Dug, Made, and Discovered hereafter; which Officer shall be called the Bar Master; and shall remain Overseer and Supervisor of the Roy-

6 Royal Institutions.

*al Mines, and other
Mines of Base Metal,
for the KING's Part,
during his Majesty's
Pleasure.*

Article II.

THAT all or any
of the KING's
Subjects, of what De-
gree, Quality, or E-
state

state soever they be,
shall have full Power,
& free Liberty to Dig,
Delve, Work, Mine,
and Break up Ground
in any of the Coun-
tries afore - said, to
seek for *Silver, Gold,*
Lead, Tin, Copper, Quick-
Silver, Precious Stones,
and *Salt-Petre*, in any
Part or Place whatso-
ever, Houses, Or-
chards, Gardens, and
En-

8. Royal Institutions.

Enclosures of Sugar-
works excepted, upon
the Terms and Condi-
tions following: That
is to say, He or they
who findeth them, or
any of them, shall pay
to the KING's Offi-
cer, for the Use of
the KING, in Oars
ready drest, and clean-
sed from the Earth,
Stone, and Rubbish,
made fit for Smelting,
Melting,

Melting, and Refining; Of all Gold and Silver Oars, one Sixth Part; And of all Lead, Tin, Copper, Quick-Silver-Oars, and Precious Stones, one Twelfth Part; And of all Salt-Petre, every Twelfth Tunn: For Payment of which Sixth and Twelfth Parts, as aforesaid, every Miner, Maintainer, or any of

10 *Royal Institutions.*

of the KING's Subjects, shall have free Liberty to Dig, Work, & Break up Grounds in any of the Countries afore-said; except in such Places, as is before excepted.

Article

Art. III.

THAT all Rakes,
or Veyns of Silver or Gold, Lead, Tin,
Copper, and Quick-Silver, and all Pipes and
Flat-Works of Precious Stones, or Salt-Petre,
shall, in three Days
Time next after they,
or any of them are
found,

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found, be posseſt with one pair of Stowes or more, by the Owners or first Finders thereof; and Notice ſhall be given, or ſent to the KING's Officer, by Word of Mouth or Writing, concerning the ſame, within three Months Time next after ſuch Veyn or Veyns, Rake or Rakes, Pipe or Pipes, Flat-

Flat-Work or Flat-
Works are Found and
Discovered; and, for
want of such Officer,
to the Minister of the
Parish, or the next Ma-
gistrate, or Justice of
the Peace, or Gover-
nour of the Place,
where such Mines are
Found, who shall im-
mediately go or send
his Deputy to the said
Mine, Rake, Veyn,
C Pipe,

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Pipe, or Flat-Work, and shall there Measure out as many Meers of Ground, as the *Owner* or *Owners* thereof have Stowes set in quiet Possession; which Meers of Ground he shall deliver to the first *Finder*, or *Owners* thereof, and shall Register that Veyn, Rake, Pipe or Flat - Work, by such

such Name, as the Owners think fit to give it; the Miner, Owner, or Finder thereof Paying to the Bar-Master, or his Deputy, Ten Shillings for every Meer of Ground he or they shall so Measure out and Register; each Meer of Ground containing Twenty Nine Yards of Ground in Length: Upon every C 2 of

16 *Royal Institutions.*

of which Meer of
Ground, a pair of
Stowes shall stand to
keep Possession, as a-
foresaid, within which
Length of Ground,
no Person or Persons
shall presume to Work,
Dig, or Break up
Ground, in Order to
get Oar therein, with-
out the Leave and
Consent of the Owner,
or first Finder thereof,
whe-

whether Gold, or any other Metal whatsoever.

Art. IV.

THAT it is, and shall be, Lawful for any Person to Cross, Stow, and take Possession of either of the Extreams or Ends

of all Rakes, Veyns,
Pipes and Flat-Works
so found, where the
Right and Possession
of the next *Owner* ex-
pires, either at the
Measuring out of the
first Meers of Ground,
or before; and he
who shall first break
Ground by the Ma-
king of a Cross or
Crosses, and shall Own
and Prove himself to
be

be the first Taker at the Finder, or to him or them that Holdeth and Enjoyeth the next Possession, and shall set on one pair of Stowes or more, within Three Days Time next after the Making of such Crofs or Crosses, or breaking of Ground, shall be Judged and Concluded to have the Right,

Right, Interest, and Possession of the next Ten Meers of Ground in the same Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, there - unto adjoyning, at whither End or Side soever it is, or shall be; provided he or they shall and do set on the other Nine pair of Stowes, within Three Days Time next after the

the Making of such Cross or Crosses; and shall Pay the Bar-Master, or his Deputy, Ten Shillings for Registering and Measuring out each Meer of Ground; at which Time, Stakes shall be driven down, or Marks made to determine and shew the End of the same. But if he or they, who have made

made such Crofs or Crosses, and broken Ground, Neglect or Refuse to fet on One Pair of Stowes or more, where such Cross or Crosses was made, within Three Days Time next after the Making thereof; that *then* it shall be *free & lawful* for any other Person to Cross, Take, and Set on Stowes, and

and Possess those Ten
Meers of Ground, and
shall Hold and Enjoy
the same to himself,
or his Assigns, giving
the Bar-Master, or his
Deputy, Notice there-
of, and Paying for Re-
gistering and Measur-
ing these Meers of
Ground, as afore-said.
And thus every one
shall be served, sooner
or later, in the same
Rake,

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Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, whether it be Silver, Gold, Lead, Tin, Copper, Quick-Silver, Precious Stones, or Salt-Petre, according to his or their Antiquity of Crossing, or Breaking of Ground, and Setting on of Stowes, as is aforesaid.

Article

Art. V.

THAT after the
Ground is Pos-
sest with Stowes, Mea-
sured, Marked out,
and Registered, if a-
ny Man's Stowes be
Stol'n off, and taken
away by any Malici-
ous Person, or by a-
ny Indirect Way or
D Means

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Means shall be Carried or Taken from the Places where they or any of them Stood, That it shall not be Lawful for any Person or Persons to Set his or their Stowes, or Possess the same Ground, or to Work therein, or in any Part of it, for three Months Time next after; and at the End of the three Months,

Months, he or they
who desires to be Ow-
ner's and Possessors of
the same, shall go or
send to the Bar-Ma-
ster, or his Deputy, or
to the Minister of the
Parish, or to some o-
ther Person, as afore-
said, and acquaint
him or them there-
with; where - upon
the Officer or Person,
so acquainted, shall

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Write or send to the late Owner or Owners thereof, to whom the Right of those Meers of Ground did belong, or to some of his or their Agents; and shall give them Notice, That unless he or they set on New Stowes upon those Meers of Ground, and Dig or Work in some Part of it, within three Months

Months Time next after such Notice given, That his or their Right in and to those Ten Meers of Ground will be given away: But if the *Bar-Master*, or other *Officer*, knows not how or where to Write or Send to such Owner or Owners, nor any of their Agents, to give him or them Notice thereof, Then the

D 3 Bar-

Bar-Master, or his Deputy, shall go to that Ground, and shall take Three or Four Persons along with him, and shall there make open PROCLAMATION, upon the Mine, some Time of the Day, between the Hours of Eight of the Clock in the Morning, and Two in the Afternoon, in the hear-

hearing of such Persons as go along with him, That unless the late *Owner*, or *Owners* thereof, shall set on new Stowes, and make Workman-ship in some Part of those Meers of Ground, within Three Months Time next after such PROCLAMATION, so that the Mine may be set forwards, and wrought

wrought for the Pub-
lick Good of the
KING, and his Sub-
jects: That for such
Neglect, those Ten
Meers of Ground in
that Rake, Veyn, Pipe,
or Flat - Work, will
be given away to o-
thers, and his or their
Names, that was late
in Possession, will be
rased out of the Re-
gister, and new Owners
put

put into Possession, and their Names Registered: And this PROCLAMATION shall determine the Right and Interest thereof. And furthermore, Every Person and Persons whatsoever, having Possess and Stowed up the Ground, as afore said, whether it be Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work,

Work, shall do and perform some actual Work, by Digging and Mining, in some Part of that Ground, in Twelve Months Time next after it is so Stowed and Possest, as afore-said; or else it is, and shall be, Lawful to and for the *Ba-*
Master, or the KING's Officer, to throw off those Stowes, so set on,

on, and to set on the Stowes of any other Person that shall desire that Ground; to the End, That the Mines may not lye Waste and Neglected; but that the KING, and the Publick, may Receive the Benefit thereof.

Article

Art. VI.

THAT no Person or Persons, Society or Societies of Men, shall take up or Possess above Forty Meers of Ground together, in any Rake, Veyn, or Pipe-Work, without leaving an Inter-

Interval, or Space of
Ten Meers of Ground
at least, for other
Adventurers; for the
Reafon of giving all
the KING's Subjects
Encouragement to
Venture, and to fet
the Field or Mine
more fully at Work,
for the Publick Good.
But in all Flat-Works
of *Gold*, or any of the
before - mentioned
E Me-

Metals, Minerals, Stones,
or Salts, every Man
shall have as many
Meers of Ground,
as he or they have
sett-on Stowes, being
Twenty Nine Yards
Square, upon the
Superficies of the
Ground, for every
Pair of Stowes; and
for every Man suc-
cessively, sooner or
later, according to
his

his or their Taking,
Stowing, and Work-
ing the same, as a-
fore-said.

Art. VII.

THAT all *Miners*,
and *Adventurers*,
shall have the Tim-
ber of the Countrey,
E 2 (where

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(where the Grounds
are not enclosed) for
the use of their Mines,
to Work and Uphold
the same, and to Smelt
and Refine their Oars
with, or to do and per-
form any other Ser-
vice or Business, their
Occasions shall re-
quire, in and about
the Mines; And Li-
berty to Dress, Wash,
and Cleanse their
Oars

Oars from the Earth,
and Rubbish, whether
they be *Silver*, *Gold*,
Copper, or any other
Metal, *Stones*, or *Salt*, as
before-mentioned, in
the most fit and con-
venient Places they
can find; and shall
Build, and set up
Smelting Mills, or
Melting and Refining
Houses for the same;
and shall have Ways,

E 3 with

with free Egress and Regress, to Pass and Repass, to and from the Mines, with any Carriages; and the Benefit of the Water, where-ever they shall find it. And when the Oars shall be Cleansed from the Earth, and Rubbish, and made fit for Melting and Refining, before any of the Oar is

is Removed, Conveyed, and Carried away from the Ground, where it is got, to Smelt, or Refine, or any other Ways to be disposed off by the Owners, Diggers, or Getters of the same; The KING's Officer, or his Deputy, or some such Person, as is before-mentioned, shall be sent for, to Measure

sure or Weigh the same. And when the Bar-Master, or his Deputy, hath taken the Sixth Part of all Gold and Silver Oars, and the Twelfth Part of all Copper, Lead, Tin, and Quick-Silver Oars, and the like for Precious Stones, and Salt-Petre, as afore-said, for the Use of the KING; Then the Miner, or Main-

Maintainer, shall have Liberty to Sell and Dispose of the Rest, to his or their best Advantage; or to Smelt and Refine the same, as he or they that Owns them think fit; And after it is made into *Copper, Lead, or Tin*, shall and may (if he or they please) Smoke off the *Base Metal*, or Refine their Oars,

Oars, before they are Melted, by *Quick-Silver*, or *Corrosive-Waters*, or any other Way, to the best of his or their Advantage, according as his or their Skill and Judgment shall direct them, either in Oars, or in Metal, as he or they think fit.

Article

Art. VIII.

THAT if it shall so happen, that Two Veins of *Silver, Gold, Copper,* or any other Metal, shall run or go along One by the Side of Another, and shall be parted by a Rither or Rock of

of Stone Three Foot Thick, or more; That then they shall be Held and Accounted for Two Rakes or Veyns; and he or they that Found the First Veyn, shall Hold and Enjoy that in his or their own Right; for each Pair of Stowes, a Meir of Ground, as is before-said: And so likewise shall he or they

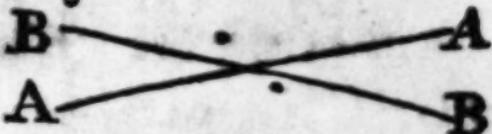
they that Found and Discovered the other Veyn or Rake, so running near, and going along by the Side of the Veyn first Found, according to his or their Crossing, Taking, and Possessing of the same with Stowes, one Meer of Ground for each Pair of Stowes; and so every Man, sooner or la-

F ter,

ter, according to his or their Taking and Stowing. But if these Two Rakes or Veyns run One into Another, and continue so, or go so near together, that the Rither or Rock, which parts them, may be got, without Blasting and Blowing down of the same Rock with Gun-Powder; Then they shall

shall be Taken, Held,
and Accounted for
one Veyn; and he or
they that was the first
Finders, or *Owners* of
the Veyn first Found,
shall Enjoy the same,
so long as they conti-
nue thus together:
But if these two Rakes,
or Veyns, or any o-
ther Rake or Veyn,
Intersect and Cross
one another Diame-

trically, as thus, + or obliquely, in this manner,



He that first comes to, and finds the Place, or Point of Intersection, shall Hold and Enjoy the same: That is to say, He shall Hold and Enjoy his own Veyn, as A.—A. in his own Right, and Three Foot of either Side

Side into the Veyn-B——B, as far as the Black Spots .. beyond which, being Three Foot, of either Side, from the Point of Intersection, towards B——B, he shall not Work, upon the Pain of Forfeiting the double Value of the Oar got therein, without any Cost or Charges to
F 3 the

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the Wronged Person, if that Veyn or Rake
B———B belong to any other Person or Persons ; and this Point of Intersection shall be called the P, to distinguish it : But if the Veyn B———B be a New Veyn, and no other Person in Possession of it ; Then it is, and shall be Lawful for the Finder there-

thereof to Take and Possess it, and Hold it in his own Right. And if any Person shall Work upon the Front and Forefield of another Man's Rake or Veyn, and shall be thought and judged to Work in the same Veyn that another Man, at some Distance, had first in Work, and was Possest of;

of; Then the Person
that thinks himself
Wrongoed, shall apply
himself to the *Bar-*
Master, or his Deputy,
and desire him to keep
an Account of all the
Oar got therein; and
before the *Getters*, or
Owners thereof, shall
carry it, or any of it
away, or shall Smelt,
Melt, or Refine any
of the same into *Sil-*
ver,

ver, Gold, or any other Metal, he or they shall give Bond to the *Owners* of the first Veyn, That, if by Workmanship, in Length of Time, these Two Places proves to be one and the same Veyn, to return the full value of the Oar got therein, to the *Owners* or *Finders* of the first Veyn, without Stopping

ing or Deducting any Cost or Charges for Getting the same; and if he or they refuse to give Bond, then the Oar shall be Stopt, and Seized for the Use of the first Owners, by the Bar-Master, or his Deputy, till further Workmanship shall make the Truth appear, whether they be one and the

the same Veyn or no; and to whether of them, the Place in Question and Dispute, doth appertain and belong. —

Art. IX.

THAT whereas it is most Natural and Customary, for Gold

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Gold to lye in the Earth
in Flat-Work; there-
fore, when any *Gold*,
Silver, *Copper*, or the
Oars of any other Me-
tal, shall be found to
lye in Flat-Work, he
or they who first Find-
eth the same, and
Crossefeth, Breaketh
Ground, and Sets on
Stowes within Three
Days Time next af-
ter such Flat - Work
is

is Found, shall have
as many Meers of
Ground in that Flat-
Work, as he or they
shall Set on Stowes
in Three Days Time
next Ensuing the
Einding, Crossing, and
Taking thereof, each
Meer of Ground con-
taining Twenty Nine
Yards of Ground
Square, upon the
Superficies; within
G which

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which Length and Compasf of Ground, no other Person or Persons shall presume to Dig, Work, or Carry the same away, without the Leave and Consent of the first Finder, or Owners thereof. But if any other Person or Persons, shall find any other Veyn or Veynes, Riake or Rakes, that shall

shall sink Perpendicu-
lar or Hadeing, with-
in the Limits or Com-
pass of that Ground
so Taken; Possess, and
Stowed up for Flat-
Work, as afore-said;
That then it is, and
shall be Lawful to and
for the first Finders, or
Owners of those Rakes,
and Veyns, to Hold,
Work, and Enjoy the
same, & all the Product.

G 2 there-

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thereof, that shall be
got within the Com-
pass and Bounds of
those Rakes or Veyns,
without any Distur-
bance or Hindrance
from or by the Owners
or Masters of the Flat-
Works, because such
Rakes and Veyns lye
in the Earth after a-
nother Manner, and
Nature, quite diffe-
rent to Flat-Works,
and

and are Separate Things; And so (successively) every one in the same Rakes or Veyns, according to His or their Taking; and Possessing with Stowes, sooner or later, shall be served, Hold and Enjoy the Meers of Ground so Taken, and Possess, in those Rakes and Veyns. And if there

G 3 be

be no Veyns or Rakes
Found within that
Compafs of Ground,
so Taken and Posſeft
for Flat - Work , but
the Flat - Work shall
continue, and extend
it ſelf, bearing Gold, or
the Oars of any other
Metal, further , and
beyond the Limits of
the Ground ſo Pos-
ſeft with Stowes , as
afore - ſaid; for Flat-
Works,

Works; That then the
first and next Taken;
Possessor, and Stower of
the next adjoyning
Ground, shall Hold
and Enjoy as many
Meers of Ground,
each Meer contain-
ing Twenty Nine
Yards of Square
Ground upon the Su-
perficies, as he or they
have Taken, and Set
on Stowes for the
same

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same Flat-Work, within the Time aforesaid ; and so, successively , every other Person or Persons shall be served, sooner or later, according to his or their Taking, Possessing, and Stowing up of the same Flat-Work ; be it in Gold Mines, or in Seams and Beds of Salt-Petre, or Precious Stones

Stones lying in the Earth, Soyl, or Rocks, in Flat-Works, as aforesaid; or any other Metal and Oars, lying in the same manner whatsoever.

Article

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Art. X.

THAT where any Oars shall be got, made, and run into Copper, Lead, Tin, or Quick-Silver, all and every Part of those Metals, that shall be used and spent in the Countrey, where they are

are got, shall Pay no other Duty to the KING, but only that before - mentioned; for the Reason of giving the Inhabitants, and Adventurers, all the Encouragement, that may be, to Work the Mines, and to Carry on the Field. But if the Finders, Getters, or Owners thereof, or any other Person, shall have

have a mind, and finds it for his or their Benefit and Advantage, to Transport and Ship them, or any of them, from the Countries where they are got, to other Places beyond the Seas, he or they that Ships them, shall Pay for every Tunn of Copper so Shipt, Twenty Shillings to the KING's Office

Officer, for the Use of
the KING; and the
same Sum of Twenty
Shillings the Tunn, for
Salt - Petre, and *Tin*;
and Five Pounds for
every Tunn of *Quick-*
Silver so Shipt off, and
Transported from the
Countries where they
are got: For the Pay-
ment of which Du-
ties, and the Twelfth
Part or Caract of all

H Pre-

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Precious Stones, as a-
fore-said, All Diggers,
Finders, Owners, Buyers,
Adventurers, or Dealers
therein, or in any of
them, shall have free
Liberty to Sell, Ship,
and Transport them
to any Part or Place
whatsoever, to the
best of his or their
Advantage.

The End of the Articles.

All

ALL which Methods, Rules, and Articles, that they, and every of them, may be Enacted, Established, and Confirmed by the King's
H 2 most

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most Excellent Ma-
jesty, and this pre-
sent Parliament ,
now Assembled, as
L A W S and C U-
STOMS, hereaf-
ter to be Practi-
sed , Used , and
Observed by all
the Subjects of the

from

H Crown

Crown of England, in all Parts of Africa, and America, for the Discovering, Working, and Carrying on any of the Mines before-mentioned, when and where they, or any of them, shall

H 3 be

78 Royal Institutions.

be Found, is the
most Humble Pe-
tition and Request
of a well - Wisher
to the Nation's In-
terest,

T. B.

1000
Worth made to Post

Postscript.

TO THE
L O R D S
Spiritual and Temporal,
Together with the
C O M M O N S,
Assembled in this present
P A R L I A M E N T.

Gentlemen,

I T is Worth your
Thoughts & Con-
fiderations, to En-
H 3 quire

quire into the Reasons and Causes, Why no English King, Prince, Noble-Man, Merchant, or any other Person of Heroick Spirit, should not, in all this Time, since *America* hath been Discovered, endeavour to be Master of Silver and Gold Mines, as well as the Spaniards; there being in many Places of *America*,

America, now in the Hands of the English,
as Rich, and as Plentiful *Veyns and Mines to be Found*, as any the *Spaniards have in Peru, or New-Spain.* But one Reason of this Misfortune, I believe to be this; He that hath had Substance, to have undertaken this Enterprise, hath wanted Skill, and durst

durst not Trust another with a small Stock
out of Sight; nor would
not go himself with
such as had Judgment
therein: Or, He that
hath had Skill, hath
wanted Money, and
Encouragement, to
Manage and Carry
on this Affair, and so
could not undertake
it, for want of a Stock;
and as yet, no Person
hath

hath Petitioned any King or Prince, about it: However, it is plain, and too true, the Mines have been Neglected, which one would think, since all the Kings, Princes, Grandees, and Persons of Estates, in Europe, have known, That for 150 Years last past, the Spaniards have imported at Cales, from Ten to

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to Forty Millions a Year, in *Silver and Gold*, besides many *Precious Stones*, and other Rich Commodities, of great Value. The Knowledge of which, one would imagine, should have strongly induced some other Prince, or Heroick Spirited Men, to have used all their Endeavours to have Found and Discover-
ed

ed such Mines; and have given them sufficient Cause to have pursued the same, by sending such Persons about this Affair, as well Understandeth such Things: But the chief Reason and Mischief, that these Mines have layn so long Neglected, is, Because a few PROPRIETORS (as is before recited in

I the

the PREFACE,) having, together with the Land, got Grants from the Crown, of the Royalties, where Mines, and Mineral Countries are; and not using any effectual Means to Discover the Mines themselves, at their Charge, the Enterprise hath remained intricate, and no ways feasable to Others,

Others, by Reason of those Grants; all other Persons being prohibited to engage therein. For, to what purpose shall a Man spend his Time, Labour, and Money, to Enrich Others, by Seeking for That, which, when he hath found, neither He, nor his Heirs, shall Enjoy, nor any part thereof:

I 2

To

To Engage in this, would be perfect Madness. This is the chief Reason, why the English are not Masters of Silver and Gold Mines, as well as the Spaniards; and not the want of such Mines, being within the English Territories and Dominions; for if this Sore was once Cured, The English would have a Plate-Fleet, in

a few Years, Arrive
in *England*, as well as
the *Flota* doth in *Spain*.
How great the Loss of
which hath been, and
is, and how Accepta-
ble and Profitable the
Discovering of such
Mines, and an Arrival
of a *Plate-Fleet* Year-
ly in *England*, would
be, I leave every one
to Judge, that knows
the Use and Service

I 3. of.

of Silver and Gold: And the Cause and Causes, why there are no such Mines Wrought in *America*, but what are Wrought by the *Spaniards*, are only the Reasons afore - said ; concerning which, I hope, I have said sufficient ; and that some better Care will be taken, for the Future, whereby all those Grants,

Grants, relating to the Mines in *America*, may be Null'd, Revok'd, and made Void, (only in such Clauses as concern Mines,) by the King's most Excellent Majesty, and the Prudence of this Present Parliament; and that the KING hereafter may remain sole Lord of the Field, and Royalties, in all Parts of

of Africa, and America, that are now, or shall be, Annexed to the CROWN of England, &c. The Indians, both on the South and North Side the Äquinoctial, had Found the Mines, and Wrought in them (after their Fashion) for above Three Hundred Years before the Spaniards came there; or else most of the Mines

Mines had layn Undiscovered to this Day, by Reason of the Spaniards Laziness; for the Indians of Peru, having Lived some Hundreds of Years in a civiliz'd Government, before the Spaniards Arrival, had Wrought the Mines, and got great Quantities of Silver and Gold, although they were in no

no proper way of Working them, nor had any Iron or Steel-ed Tools, fit for the Service of the Mines; but only Tools of Copper, which they Valued more than *Silver or Gold*, in regard the Tools and Utensils of Copper were most serviceable for their Domestick Affairs, and all other Oc-

Occasions, in their Times: So that, for many Years, wherever the Spaniards came, unless they Found Vessels of Silver and Gold in the Indians Houses, or somewhere Wore about them, at their Ears, Lips, Necks, or Noses; or was conducted, by the Indians, to the Mines, and Places,

ces, where the *Silver* and *Gold* had been got, The best and Richest Mines, the *Spaniards* now have, lay Void, and for a long Time Unwrought; being no more taken Notice of, than some Mineral Countries now are by the *English*, in several Parts of *America*. And the best Method (for Gathering and Ta-

Taking up *Gold*,) most
of the *Spaniards* had,
for many Years, was
only to Cleanse and
Scower up the small
Rivers and Brooks of
the Countrey, falling
from the Mountains;
from the Sands where-
of, they Gathered
much *Gold*, without the
Experience of Digging,
Mining, and Sink-
ing of Shafts, to seek

K for

for Veyns and Rakes :
The Knowledge of
which hath not been
many Years Under-
stood , and Practised
by them ; nor is yet
Understood , Used ,
and Practised to that
Heighth , and to such
Advantage , as it might
be . So that , in ma-
ny Places , which are
now in the Possession
of the English , there
was

was never any Shafts Sunk, and put down, either by the English, or the Spaniards; their chief Objects, and Places of Tryal, being only the Surface of the Earth, with the Brooks and Rivers, as afore - said. And therefore it remains, without Contradiction, there is all the probable Signs and Sym-
K 2 ptomes

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provinces of Rich Veyns
to be had, and Found,
for Digging and Seek-
ing for. And to this
Day, the best Me-
thod and Way that is
Known, Practised, and
Used by the *Spaniards*,
and *Indians*, for Ga-
thering and Taking
up *Gold*, in Flat-Work,
is as followeth: The
Spaniards set their *In-
dians* and *Negro Slaves*
out

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out a Parcel of Ground,
Forty or Fifty Yards
Square, more or less,
as the Patroon or Ma-
ster thinks fit; which
Ground, the *Indians*
and Slaves Dig up as
Deep as they Find a-
ny *Gold* in it; and as
they Dig it, throw it
into Wheel-Barrows,
which being done,
their other Slaves run
it away to the next

K 3 Ri-

River, or Running-Brook, and there lays it down, and Returns for more; and in this Manner they Labour, till their Days Work is done, in Digging and carrying of Earth. At the River, or Running Brook, there are also several other *Indian* Women, Boys, Girls, or Slaves, at Work, having Bowls, or

or small Treays with Handles; where a *Negro* Boy or Girl, having first broken and beaten the Lumps of Earth small, where, by Reason of the Heat, it immediately dryes; which when it is dry, they put about an English Peck of that small Earth, so beaten and dryed, into one of those Treays, as I did

afore-

afore-said, at a Time; and then the Woman shakes and dances it about in the Water, turning the Bowl or Treay about and about, till the Water hath Washt away all the Earth, and Rubbish, and what *Gold* is in it, sinks, and remains at the Bottom; which not being fully Cleansed from the Earth,

Earth, is put into a Bowl that stands by, to undergo a second and a third Cleansing. And in this Manner, the Women, Boys, and Girls, renew filling of their Treays and Bowls, with that Earth, till their Days Work is done; and so daily gather more or less Gold, according as it happens, and as that

Flat-

Flat-Work is more or less Plentiful of Gold; Pursuing this Method in Digging, Carrying, and Washing, as long as that Earth hath any Gold in it worth their Labour; and then they remove to another Place. After this Way, they Work out all their Earth and Land, that lies near Rivers, or Running-Brooks,

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Brooks, that hath *Gold* in it; but where the *Gold* lies at a great Distance from any Running Water, they are obliged to let all alone, or else to lose the greatest Part of the *Gold* that is small; for in such Places that are remote from the Water, (as on the Tops and Plains of the Mountains, where there is

is generally the most plentiful Store of Gold) the best Ways they Use or Understand to gather it there, are these: They Dig the Earth, Dry it, then Beat it small, and Sift it; which done, they Spread or Strow it thin upon the Ground, and there it lies, till the next Showers of Rain Wash it, and then they

they pick out what
Gold they can; which
being done, they
draw the Earth up
and down with Coal-
Rakes, or turn it with
Shovels, and spread it
thin again, and let it
lye till other Rains
wash it, and so pick it
over again; which O-
peration, being twice
or thrice Repeated,
and having taken
L what

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what *Gold* they can out
this Way, they then
shovel all the Earth
together upon Heaps;
and if there be no
Pools or standing Wa-
ters near, they make
Ponds or Pools, which
when the Rain-Water
hath filled, they carry
that Earth, so laid up-
on Heaps, thither,
and wash it, with their
Treays and Bowls, in
those

POSTSCRIPT. III

those Pools, as aforesaid: And by this Means they get some more *Gold*, although most of the fine and small *Gold* is quite lost, because the Water of those standing Pools soon grows dirty and muddy, and thereby rendred unfit to sepearate the fine dust *Gold* from the Earth, for want of clear running-

L 2 Wa-

Waters; which Error,
and Defect, might ea-
sily be amended; and
all the *Gold*, though
never so small, preser-
ved, if they under-
stood the way of *Husb-*
ing, and using long
Buddles, and Lan-
ders: As much *Gold*
might be taken up in
a Month, by the same
Number of Hands, as
they now take up in
Seven

Seven Years: But, whether this be a proper Place, and a fit Time, to Shew and Describe the Way of *Husbanding*, and Using these Buddles and Landers, I know not, till I find what Reception and Countenance these ARTICLES will meet with. And if the Design of this Book meets with EN-

L 3 cou-

couragement, I will Publish a Book, Entituled, *The Royal Miner*; (in which, the whole Method and Progress of Digging, Working, and Carrying on of Mines, from the first Beginning, or Breaking of Ground, to the Melting, Refining, and Making the Oars into Metal, shall be clearly Taught and De-

Described, together, with all the Work-Tools, Instruments, and Materials, Used in and about the Mines : As also, what Incidents, or Accidents, Prejudicial, or Profitable, hath, doth, and may attend the same, as far as Art, or Nature, hath Discovered these things to Humane Reason : In all which,

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which, (I may say, without Boasting,) I have had long Experience, and am as capable to Acquaint posterity with, as any Person extant, having, for Six and Twenty Years past, been universally concerned in Mines, in all, or most of the Mineral Countries of *England*, not only as a Partner, Master,

ster, or Owner of them, but in the Practick Part of their Workman-ship, from the Beginning, to the End:) In which Book, I will describe the Method of these Bundles and Landers, for Husing, and the most proper Way of taking up, and gathering of Gold, with many Useful and Beneficial Directions

rections and Instructions, in and about the Mines, and Mineral Countries of *England*, and other Places, shall be fully set out and described. In the Interim, If this small Book should fall into the Hands of any Detractors, who, through Ignorance, or Envy, shall exclaim against any thing herein

herein mentioned, or hereby intended; I shall only give such Persons this modest Reproof, *Quis nisi mentis inops oblatum respuat aurum?* and he may well be reckoned a weak Man, if not a Fool, that will censure, slight, or condemn any thing, in which he never acquired sufficient Knowledge.

Judge to be a competent and fit Judge.

Gentlemen,

I would not have You, or any of You, think, or believe, that *Gold*, and *Silver*, or the *Oars* of any other Metals, lyes in the Earth, in such Plenty, or in such a Manner, as to discover themselves to every vulgar eye,
or

or unskillful Eye ; however, it is certain, There is great Plenty, and many Rich Veyns to be Found in the English Territories, & for what I have mentioned before, concerning a Plate-Fleet coming Yearly into England, if Liberty, and fit Encouragement, be given, I will Undertake to Effect and Perform

form it. And, if any of You desires further Information in this Affair, I am ready to Acquaint You with it, when You Command me; and to Shew You *how*, *where*, and by *what Ways* and Means the same may be Effected; so that, if Liberty and Encouragement may be given, I doubt not, but to

to have Five Hundred
Miners at Work, in
Two Years Time; by
which, with some Ne-
groes, and other Per-
sons, that I will Cause
to be brought to
them, in Two Years
Time more, I questi-
on not, but to make
the Mines flourish to
a greater Degree, than
I shall now Speak of.

M 2 To

To Conclude; All
that I seek herein, is,
That the King's most
Excellent Majesty, and
this August Assembly of
Parliament, would be
Graciously Pleased,
(if in their great Wi-
dom, it may be
thought fit,) to take
away, and remove all
those Obstructions,
which hitherto have
Ruined this Honou-
rable

rable Enterprize; and that, for the Future, they would Settle and Confirm either the a-fore-going ARTICLES, or some other Fundamental Laws and Customs, for the Mines before-mentioned; whereby all Free-Born Subjects of the CROWN of *England*, may have Liberty, and full Pow-

M. 3. er,

ter, of Using their En-
deavours, to improve
their own Interests,
together with the Re-
venues of the CROWN:
Which is the most
Humble Desire, and
Petition, of a *Well-
Wisher* to his KING,
and Countrey,

Thom. Houghton.

F I N I S.

